ABSTRACT

In accordance with the present invention, novel IL-16 antagonists, preferably peptides derived from CD4, have been isolated and synthesized. These peptides possess IL-16 antagonistic properties including the ability to selectively bind to IL-16 and inhibit IL-16-mediated biological activity. The peptides comprise specific portions of the native human CD4 receptor and variations thereof and therefore are non-immunogenic when administered to humans. The present invention also provides compositions containing at least one IL-16 antagonist peptide which can inhibit, suppress or cause the cessation of at least one IL-16-mediated biological activity in mammals, including humans.

The present invention provides a method and composition for treating inflammation associated with disease states such as asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and systemic lupus (SLE) in mammals such as, for example, humans.